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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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03/26/2004

Kazuhiro Oki

8012-1240

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06/09/2008

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EXAMINER

PADGETT, MARIANNE L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1792

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/09/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Continuing sheet PTO-303**3. NOTE:**

The proposed claim language for independent claim 1 has inconsistent nomenclature with respect to limitations already present in the claims. Specifically, note in line 10 "a drying device...", but the added limitations in lines 12-16 are directed to "the drying apparatus", thus raising new 112 issues with respect clarity. The examiner additionally observes that for the claimed angles θ , as now claim, it would appear to be appropriate to define with respect to what they angles are defined, i.e. is it with respect to the horizontal, with respect to a tangent to the guide rollers, etc.? Also, if each of these angles are with respect rollers, there appears to be an inconsistency with between different guide roller requirements in the amended limitations & "incline with one or... guide rollers", i.e. further new issues.

Also this amendment combines the limitations that were previously presented in dependent claims 44+45 or 44+46, thus have not previously been required to all be considered altogether, nor has this combination of limitations been required to be considered with the limitations of dependent claims 2-20 & the specific series of angles as are now required in claims 42 & 43, thus creating more new issues.

Another new issue is that the series of related angles have for the first time been directly related to "an inclination to a horizontal direction" introduced in the transporting limitation of in the independent claim 1, thus requiring for the first time that all these angles must be upwardly directed, so as to be approaching the claimed horizontal direction, which is also a new issue with respect to the relationship of these angles & other claim limitations.

5. Reply would overcome:

It appears that the proposed amendment would overcome 112 first & second rejections with respect to the independent claim by clarifying the relationship of the claimed angles, such that it is consistent with disclosure in the specification, although as noted above the proposed amendment

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introduces a new clarity problem. It also appears that these amendments that combine claims 44-46 with independent claim 1, as well as new issues as discussed above, would appear to remove the art rejections of record in the case, as they define different required angles in drying apparatus that the applied art.

11. Request for reconsideration:

The proposed amendment would not place the application in condition for allowance due to new clarity problems as discussed above. Also the new issues with respect to scope may be considered to require further search & consideration of prior art, especially with respect issues of obviousness for the limitations.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marianne L. Padgett whose telephone number is (571) 272-1425. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from about 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Meeks, can be reached at (571) 272-1423. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Marianne L. Padgett/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1792

MLP/dictation software

6/4/2008